

What is claimed is:

1. A line illuminating device having two light guides for guiding light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and for emitting the light from an emission plane formed along the longitudinal direction, characterized
5 in that these light guides are arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from the emission plane of each light guide irradiates the same area of a document-reading plane, and one light guide is provided, at one end of its longitudinal direction, with a first light-emitting source, while the other light guide is provided, at the other end of its longitudinal direction, with a second light-emitting source.
- 10 2. The line illuminating device according to claim 1, wherein each light guide is symmetrically arranged relative to a plane where the emission plane is at right angles to the document-reading plane.
3. The line illuminating device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein each light guide is housed in a casing in such a manner that at least the emission plane is
15 exposed.
4. The line illuminating device according to any of claims 1 through 3, wherein the light guide is formed with light-scattering patterns for scattering illuminating light at a predetermined plane except for an incident plane and the emission plane of the light guide.
- 20 5. A line illuminating device having a pair of light guides arranged to guide light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and to scatter the incident light at light scattering patterns formed intermittently over the longitudinal direction so as to irradiate the same area of a document- reading plane, characterized in that these light guides are alternately arranged so that the
25 light-scattering patterns formed on one light guide compensate for the shortage of light-scattering patterns formed on the other light guide.
6. The line illuminating device according to claim 5, wherein each light guide is symmetrically arranged relative to a plane where the emission plane is at right angles to the document-reading plane.
- 30 7. The line illuminating device according to claim 5, wherein each light guide is placed one upon another, and the emission plane is arranged on one side relative to a plane where the emission plane is at right angles to the document-reading surface.
8. The line illuminating device according to any of claims 5 through 7, wherein,

- under conditions where the pair of light guides are arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from each emission plane irradiates the same area of the document-reading plane, one light guide is provided with a light-emitting source at one end of the longitudinal direction, while the other light guide is provided with a light-emitting
- 5 source at the other end of the longitudinal direction.
9. A line illuminating device having a light guide for guiding light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and for scattering the light at light-scattering patterns formed along the longitudinal direction to emit this light from an emission plane, this line illuminating device being provided with two line
- 10 illuminating units for housing the light guide in a casing, characterized in that each line illuminating unit is arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from the emission plane of each light guide irradiates the same area of the document-reading plane, and the light guide casing has at least an outside section treated to control scattering and reflection of the light.
- 15 10. A line illuminating device having a light guide for conducting light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and for scattering the light at light-scattering patterns formed along the longitudinal direction to emit this light from an emission plane, this line illuminating device being provided with two line illuminating units for housing the light guide in a casing, characterized in that each line
- 20 illuminating unit is arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from the emission plane of each light guide irradiates the same area of a document-reading plane, and the light guide casing has at least an outside section covered by a member for controlling scattering and reflection of the light.